

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a printing unit to execute printing functions;

a processor to control functions executed by the image forming apparatus, wherein the processor executes a plurality of programs in response to powering on of the image forming apparatus;

a memory;

an operation panel unit;

a first interface connected with an external apparatus to receive print data; and

a second interface, separate from the first interface, to removably receive a portable storage unit providing an additional function related to the image forming apparatus that was not previously supported by the image forming apparatus,

wherein the processor determines whether the portable storage unit is installed in the second interface, and determines whether an execution file is stored in the portable storage unit is executable,

wherein if the execution file in the portable storage unit is not executable, the processor displays a message via operation panel unit a message that the execution file in the portable storage unit cannot be executed,

wherein if it is determined that the portable storage unit is installed in the second interface and the execution file is stored in the portable storage unit, the processor displays a menu via the operation panel unit to enable a user to select an execution of the additional function related to the image forming apparatus,

wherein when the user selects the additional function via the operation panel unit, a plug-in program corresponding to the additional function selected by the user stored in the portable storage unit is executed.

43. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus comprising:

- a printing unit to execute printing functions;

- a processor to control functions executed by the image forming apparatus, wherein the processor executes a plurality of programs in response to powering on of the image forming apparatus;

- a memory;

- an operation panel unit;

- a first interface connected with an external apparatus to receive print data; and

- a second interface, separate from the first interface, to removably receive a portable storage unit providing an additional function related to the image forming apparatus that was not previously supported by the image forming apparatus,

- wherein the processor determines whether the portable storage unit is installed in the second interface, and determines whether an execution file is stored in the portable storage unit,

- wherein if it is determined that the portable storage unit is installed in the second interface and the execution file is stored in the portable storage unit is executable, the processor displays a menu via the operation panel unit to enable a user to select an execution of the additional function related to the image forming apparatus,

- wherein if the execution file in the portable storage unit is not executable, the processor displays a message via operation panel unit a message that the execution file in the portable storage unit cannot be executed,

- wherein the additional function selectable by the user corresponds to one of the programs executed by the processor in response to the powering on of the image forming apparatus,

- wherein when the user selects the additional function via the operation panel unit, a plug-in program corresponding to the additional function selected by the user stored in the portable storage unit is executed,

- wherein the plug-in program corresponding to the additional function is executed in response to the receiving of a user request via the operation panel unit,

- wherein the plug-in program does not have an independent interface and can be used by being connected with the corresponding one of the executed programs and provides additional function to the one of the executed programs that was not previously supported by the one of the executed programs.